

## **Epsom & Ewell Borough Council – Decisions taken by the Strategy and Resources Committee on Tuesday, 26 September 2017**

**This notice was published 27 September 2017**

Decisions will come into force, and may be implemented, on the expiry of 5 working days from the date of this notice unless called in by the Audit, Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee.

NOTE: The following represents a summary of the decisions taken by the Committee. It is not intended to represent the formal record of the meeting (for which reference should be made to the minutes) but to facilitate the call-in process.

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Decision</b>
<b>1.</b>	Question Time	No questions were asked or had been submitted by members of the public.
<b>2.</b>	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made by councillors regarding items on the Agenda.
<b>3.</b>	2016/17 Final Accounts - Audit Findings	<p>The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) Received the Audit Findings for 2016/17;</li><li>(2) Received the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2017;</li><li>(3) Agreed the management action in response to audit recommendations;</li><li>(4) Agreed that the Chairman of Strategy and Resources Committee and the Acting Director of Finance and Resources sign the Letter of Representation on behalf of the Council;</li><li>(5) Delegated any further amendments to the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2017 to the Acting Director of Finance and Resources in consultation with the Chairman of the Strategy and Resources Committee;</li></ul>

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Agenda Item No	Report Title	Decision
		(6) Accepted the proposed re-appointment of Grant Thornton as the Council's external auditor for five years from 2018/19 to 2022/23.
4.	BID Business Plan and Ballot	<p><i>Note: This item was moved up the running order with the agreement of the Committee, the Vice Chairman of the BID Steering Group being in attendance.</i></p> <p><b>(Revised recommendations tabled at the meeting)</b></p> <p>The Committee:</p> <p>(1) Noted the Draft BID Business Plan as defining the likely scope and purpose of the proposed BID;</p> <p>(2) Agreed that the Council support the proposed BID and authorised the Chief Executive to vote “Yes” in the expected forthcoming ballot on behalf of the Council.</p>
5.	Discretionary Rate Relief for National Non-Domestic rates	<p>The Committee:</p> <p>(1) Adopted the scheme set out in sections 3 to 7 (inclusive) of the report as part of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy with effect from 1 April 2017;</p>

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		<p>(2) Agreed that the scheme referred to in recommendation 1 should have effect until the 31 March 2021 when government funding of the scheme ceases, at which point no further relief would be given under the scheme.</p>
6.	Pilot for 100% Business Rates Retention in 2018/19	<p><b><i>(Revised recommendation tabled at the meeting)</i></b></p> <p>The Committee authorised the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Acting Director of Finance and Resources and the Chairman of the Strategy and Resources Committee to agree or reject the terms of the proposed Surrey bid to become a pilot for 100% retention of business rates.</p>
7.	Budget Targets 2018/19	<p>The Committee:</p> <p>(1) Received the Minutes of the Meeting of the Financial Policy Panel held on 12 September 2017;</p> <p>(2) Agreed the following overall revenue budget target for 2018/19:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) the preparation of estimates including options to reduce organisational costs by £588,000, subject to government grant announcement, to minimise the use of working balances and maintain a minimum working balance of £2.5 million in accordance with the Medium Term Financial Strategy;</p>

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		<p>b) the generation of at least £200,000 additional revenue from an increase in discretionary fees and charges, based on minimum overall increase in yield of 3%;</p> <p>c) the provision of £228,000 for the pay award, representing an increase to the staffing budget of 1.5%.</p> <p>(3) That further savings and efficiencies be identified to address the budget shortfalls of £90,000 in 2018/19, £577,000 in 2019/20 and £791,000 in 2020/21;</p> <p>(4) Noted that the Capital Member Group would limit schemes included within the capital expenditure programme to enable the retention of agreed minimum level of capital reserves.</p>
8.	Corporate Plan: Performance Report One 2017/18	<p>The Committee:</p> <p>(1) Considered the performance reported in Annexe 1 to the report and did not identify any areas of concern;</p> <p>(2) Noted the actions that had been proposed or taken where performance was currently a concern as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report.</p>
9.	Procurement Strategy	<p>The Committee approved the Procurement Strategy 2017-2021 as set out in summary in Annexe 1 of the report and in detail in Annexe 2 of the report.</p>

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<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Decision</b>
<b>10.</b>	Minutes of Previous Meeting	The Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 27 June 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.